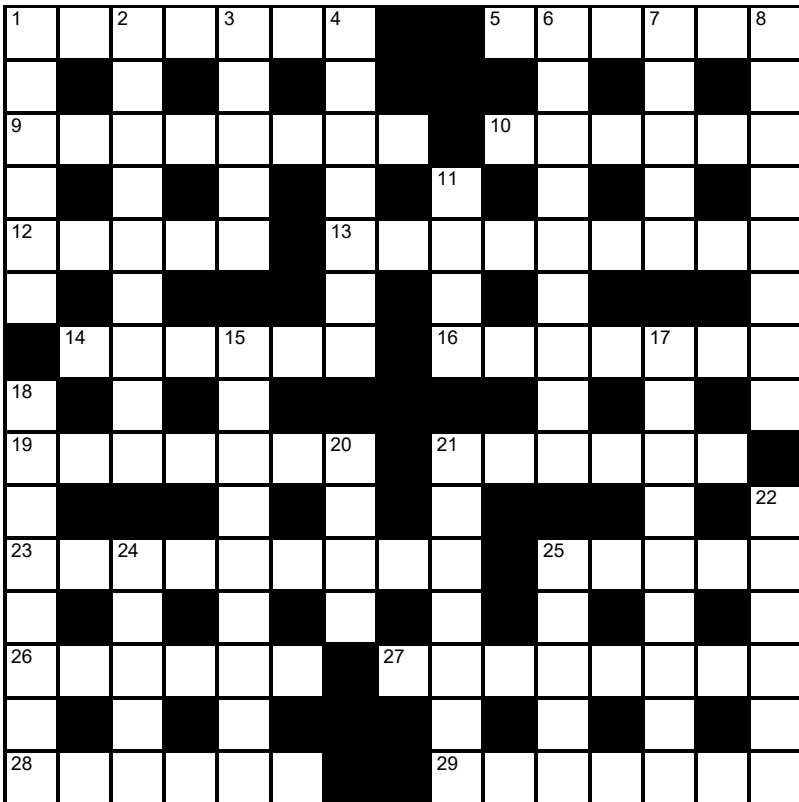


# CROSSWORD

No 17,285 Set by GAFF



**"A 20, 21a, 25d, 10, 7, 12, 4, 24, 9, 23, 27, 5, 29" provides a somewhat mangled festive lyric**

## ACROSS

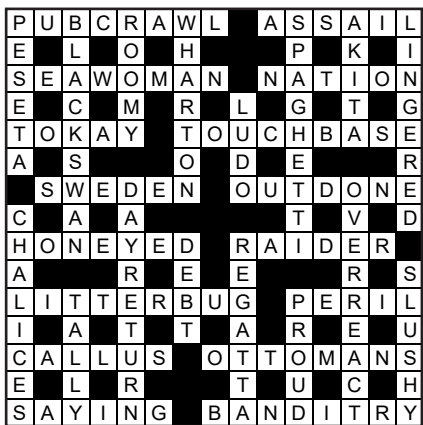
- 1 Often forced to simulate conversation (7)
- 5 Weighty parts in *Cats* (6)
- 9 Fitted behind metal desk top (8)
- 10 Writer's drink warmer in most of Holland (6)
- 12 Plants left in markets (5)
- 13 Remove trousers today in Italy inside left-over food container (6,3)
- 14 Start to sow at last in a lot of soil (6)
- 16 Happening to enter with left foot missing (5,2)
- 19 She ignored strange shadowless rule about going wrong (4,3)
- 21 Urgent sound of the blues (6)
- 23 Comfort break ends leaving both with strongest smell (9)
- 25 Gaff's study? I doubt it! (2,3)
- 26 Where children are told not to play in advance (6)
- 27 How Santa went and got utterly killed (8)
- 28 Most retiring seniors have youthful enthusiasm suffusing their heads (6)
- 29 Sounded like clutch announced on platform (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Approve of topless delight (6)
- 2 Wearing the same shapeless coat for semi-final (9)
- 3 Raised amoral hand-out of bouquet (5)
- 4 The Bard's rewritten "Measure..." (7)
- 6 Ridding the world of trouble and strife (9)
- 7 West Indian openers to collect all runs in boundaries (5)
- 8 Spooning drink into tops of shot glasses (8)
- 11 Eager to turn into silver (4)
- 15 Charms useless as sentimental teen is dumped (9)
- 17 Charges at the Spar go mad (9)
- 18 Fortune tellers report assistants without slightest debate (8)
- 20 Involved in how he yielded serum (4)
- 21 Brief message that Telethon came up short by an hour (7)
- 22 Drove with care across the road (6)
- 24 Punctual but almost miss the start (5)
- 25 Expedition leader follows sea state (5)

## JOTTER PAD

Solution 17,284



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